



## Welcome to (Busy) Fall!

We hope all of our members had a wonderful summer. There was no break for me as I teach Summer Camps, but I'm excited for those children to go back to school!

Speaking of school: 2025 marks the Centennial of the Solana Beach School District and officials want to hear from area educators, parents and students -- current or former -- who

would like to share 100 Years of Memories. Photos, videos, stories or memorabilia welcomed! Email [info@sbsd.net](mailto:info@sbsd.net) or use hashtags #SBD100Years and #ShareYourSBSD Story on social media posts.

Thanks to the City of Solana Beach for again awarding Community Grant funds to support *our* ongoing archival efforts. Most recently, we have been digitizing some 80 years of lifeguard memorabilia.

This Saturday evening, September 6th at La Colonia Park, your Society will be serving nachos as one of many sponsors of a free screening of "Encanto." Join us for dinner and a movie! Details on page 5.

Our first general meeting of the season is on Thursday, September 11, featuring Nature Collective Executive Director Jennifer Bright, Senior Education & Outreach Director Kristin Evans and Operation Director Bradley Nussbaum. Learn about the Collective's 40-year history on the following pages. *Please note: General meetings return to Fletcher Cove Community Center this fall.*

Three members of your Board of Directors have decided to focus on other volunteer activities and retired from their positions. Thanks to Karen Grossman for penning our Board reports as Recording Secretary for the past few years; special thanks to long-time Board members Pat Coad and Lisa Montes.

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### ***La Colonia Park Playground dedicated to "la madrina" Cipriana Martinez Gonzalez***



Gonzalez family members joined Solana Beach Council-members to celebrate "Cipri's Playground" during their family reunion in July. Cipriana Gonzalez (1906 to 1999) spent most of her life in La Colonia, where she was a tireless advocate for the community. She married Salvador Gonzalez in 1926 and the two raised five children together. In the 1930s, Cipriana fought to end segregated Americanization schools where Mexican-American youth were forced to "assimilate" into American culture and punished for speaking Spanish. Two decades later, her efforts influenced the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court desegregation case, according to her grandson, Prof. Daniel Ramirez.

She was a life-long supporter of St. Leo's Church, advocating for its construction after World War II and leading the fight against efforts by the Catholic Diocese of San Diego to close the church during the 1960s. She famously took that fight to Rome by writing to the Vatican and was victorious in preserving St. Leo's as a Mission. Cipriana organized sewing circles to make its altar linens. She also led the Solana Beach Mothers Club and supported the Boys & Girls Club. She believed that "all children should play together."

Thursday September 11, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center

## Nature Collective Gearing up to Celebrate 40 years of Protection



Join us for timely updates about dredging and restoration projects in the San Elijo Lagoon from Nature Collective Executive Director Jennifer Bright and other key staff. Jennifer was promoted to the top role at the nonprofit conservation and science education organization early this year after 10 years with the Collective, including five as Associate Director.

The Collective's history of lagoon protection dates to 1971, with creation of the San Elijo Alliance (SEA) and, in 1976, its sister "pioneer" organization, the San Elijo Lagoon Foundation. The Foundation was designed to accommodate property

acquisitions and land donations, if needed, to help keep the estuary wild.

The lagoon had long been threatened by development. Between 1880 and 1940, dikes and levees were built that allowed duck hunting, salt harvesting and sewage settling ponds. Construction of the railroad, Pacific Coast Highway and Interstate 5 also required supporting berms that restricted water circulation and natural tidal flows. Development proposals in the 1960s and 1970s included one to build a marina and 750 homes with boat docks in the estuary. Another, launched in the early 1980s, was a proposal to build 44 homes in Holmwood Canyon.

When the San Elijo Lagoon Reserve was first proposed in the late 1970s, it included Holmwood Canyon because of its importance as a watershed and habitat for a number of species. Since the County of San Diego had jurisdiction for the wetlands, it was obligated to purchase the then-privately owned canyon. However, in 1981, Holmwood Canyon was removed from the county's acquisition list because the Board of Supervisors had exhausted its budget on other projects. It wasn't long before the property owner submitted a proposal to build up to 44 residential units there.

In 1982, Friends of Holmwood Canyon was founded to organize opposition to the project. Members -- eventually there were 600 -- kept an eye on the permit process, attended public meetings and garnered support from local business and political leaders. Solana Beach wasn't incorporated at this time and the Canyon development proposal was one of many being opposed by area residents and environmentalists who felt that the County was eager to, in effect, sell our town's soul. Friends president Jack Peek and his wife Carol were key to keeping the group together and sustaining what became a years-long fight.

In 1983, San Elijo Lagoon was designated by the state as the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to better protect its habitat values. Eventually, the Holmwood Canyon land owners expressed a willingness to sell their 16-acre parcel. The County -- again -- agreed to the purchase to add to then-800-acre San Elijo Regional Park. Finally, in 1987, the purchase was completed with a \$1 million grant from the state Coastal Conservancy, about \$800,000 in state environmental grant funds generated from the sale of "vanity" license plates, a \$150,000 grant secured by the County and more than \$50,000 from the Friends of Holmwood Canyon. Fundraising efforts included an "adoption" campaign where donors received an "adoption certificate" for an animal, plant or natural feature of the canyon. The Peeks adopted a family of quail; the Society contributed \$500.

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## *Nature Collective . . . San Elijo Lagoon, continued*

Nature Collective, formerly known as the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, was formed in 1987 with the mission to "preserve, protect and enhance the San Elijo Lagoon and its watershed. In 1993, the Conservancy started periodic dredging of the lagoon inlet to maintain tidal flows.

Fast forward to 2022, when Nature Collective completed a \$120 million restoration project 20 years in the making. The project -- a partnership between SANDAG, Caltrans, the City of Encinitas and conservation groups funded by the half-cent Transnet tax -- included a pipeline to pump dredged sand out to coastal beaches. It widened and deepened the lagoon channel to expand and improve the wetlands habitat well into the eastern lagoon. New mudflats and trails also were created.

Unfortunately, along with increased tidal flow has come more sand. Last fall, it became clear that annual land-based sand excavation efforts couldn't keep up, resulting in a hypoxic environment -- not enough oxygen in the water to support fish life. High water levels also were harming vegetation and protected birds.

A \$2.7 million effort to dredge the inlet initially was scheduled for December 2024, but encountered multiple delays due to modifications, retrofitting, and manufacturing issues with a custom flexi-suction hose, which finally shipped from China in April. Dredging got underway in mid June, but was again hampered when crews encountered riprap embedded in the sand shoals. In late August the project was completed with nearly 70,000 cubic yards of sand removed from the lagoon's main channel.



### Learn All About Orchids at the SeaWeeders Sept. 9 meeting

Yup, these are orchids! Long-time, award-winning orchid cultivator Cynthia Hill -- who once grew more than 700 of the plants -- will share their identities and provide an overview of the orchid world during our meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m.** at the **cottage behind the Boys & Girls Club, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr.** A former editor of Orchid Digest magazine, Cynthia will share her knowledge about

"what makes an orchid an orchid" and provide a hands-on demo of repotting and dividing a plant during the session. All are welcomed! Questions? Email [sbseaweeders@gmail.com](mailto:sbseaweeders@gmail.com)



## **President's message, continued . . .**

Lisa brought an invaluable perspective to her work as Heritage Museum Curator and Historian as a descendant of one of La Colonia's First Families. She was born in and has always lived in historic La Colonia, where her mother was the first bride to be married at St. Leo's Catholic Church. Lisa is a fierce advocate for La Colonia and the Latino community throughout San Diego; she was a key influencer in the City's decision to dedicate the La Colonia playground for another area icon, Cipriana Gonzalez. Lisa and I have enjoyed welcoming area 3rd graders to the Museum for our Living History programs in recent years -- in each group Lisa usually discovers another cousin, or the grandson of a cousin. Lisa will continue to assist with these educational events, schedule permitting.



Pat will continue to assist with Scholarships, but is stepping down from Board roles.

These women are my friends, tireless volunteers, and trailblazers in our community. We wish them all the best and hope their new endeavors bring them joy and continued success. Their departures, of course, add more opportunities to join our Board! Interested? Email [solanabeachhistory@gmail.com](mailto:solanabeachhistory@gmail.com) or [jojo@solanabeachCT.org](mailto:jojo@solanabeachCT.org)

In what we hope will bring a long-term boost to our membership roll: My non-profit theater ([www.SolanabeachCT.org](http://www.SolanabeachCT.org)) has sponsored SBC&HS memberships as a gift to local families who recently signed up for a fall production. Please welcome new faces at our coming meetings and events.

History begins with us! Let's keep Solana Beach amazing!



Pat with 2025 scholarship winner Ava Hsueh. Mark Meenie photo.

**Jolene Dodson**

## **SBC&HS-sponsored Murals Honored by State Senator Blakespear**



Photo by Mark Meenie

Diana Kutlow, senior district representative to state Senator Catherine Blakespear, presented Certificates of Recognition to the Society and artist Kevin Anderson during our June Scholarship Dinner in appreciation of our gift of Kevin's Post Office murals to the community.

The certificates congratulate the Society "on creating the colorful, educational and place-based environmental murals. . . your public masterpiece, steeped in your long connection to coastal North County, adds to the vibrant artistic community of Solana Beach and encourages all who see it to enjoy, protect, and conserve our natural resources."

The Post Office murals also were featured in a recent presentation on the City's many public art pieces sponsored by the City, Solana Beach Community Connections and the San Diego Seniors Community Foundation. The murals, as well as the Post Office Topiary statue by Christie Beniston, were recognized alongside 10 iconic sculpture and mosaic works around town. The event featured artist Betsy Schulz, whose mosaics grace the Gateway Arches and Fletcher Cove; her Firewall sculpture lights up the fire station garden.





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF NORTHWEST SAN DIEGO**

# MOVIE IN THE PARK

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!**

**Saturday, Sept. 6**  
**@ La Colonia Park**  
**6:00-9:00pm**  
**Movie starts at dusk (approx. 7:25pm)**

Bring the family and friends, a blanket, and lawn chairs for a fun evening with music, community booths, and food!

**Featured Movie:**  
**"Disney's Encanto"**

**Food provided by Jake's Del Mar**  
**Dessert provided by Solana Frosty**  
*One serving per person. While supplies last.*

Logos: Jake's del mar, La Colonia Community Foundation Solana Beach, CA, Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society, Solana Frosty.

### **Save the Dates!**

## **2025 SBC&HS Meetings & Events**

*By popular demand, our monthly meetings will return to Fletcher Cove Community Center this fall, unless otherwise indicated.*

Email [solanabeachhistory@gmail.com](mailto:solanabeachhistory@gmail.com) to volunteer.

- **Saturday, September 6:** We'll again co-sponsor a Movie Night in La Colonia Park. Volunteers needed to help us serve free nachos.
- **Thursday, September 11:** Jennifer Bright, Executive Director, and key staff of Nature Collective, will bring us up to date on San Elijo Lagoon dredging and restoration projects, among others.
- **Thursday, October 9:** Stephen Wilkens remembers his family's business in early Solana Beach.
- **Sunday, October 19:** Volunteers need to help staff our booth at Dia de los Muertos in La Colonia Park.
- **Saturday, October 26:** Celebrate the Solana Beach School Districts Centennial at the annual Halloween Carnival at Solana Vista Elementary School. Volunteers needed to help staff the Society's booth.
- **Saturday, November 8:** Holiday Boutique at La Colonia Community Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- On **December 4**, we're planning a new holiday tradition. Details to follow . . .

### **Richard Moore**

We are very saddened to report that long-time Society member and research historian passed away in his home on September 1, 2025. We will share more information with our many, many members who fondly remember Richard as it becomes available.

### **Save the date!**

### **Holiday Boutique Sat., Nov. 8**

We are recruiting volunteers to help with Holiday Boutique set up and sales, as well as to bake goods for sale. To sign-up to help, please email [solanabeachhistory@gmail.com](mailto:solanabeachhistory@gmail.com)

The Crafts Group has enjoyed gathering and making variety of items during our summer sessions and we continue to work on personal projects at home. Our next workshop is 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, September 25 at La Colonia Community Center. All are welcomed!

### **Oct. 4 is Sustainable Recycling Day**

Register with EDCO starting Sept. 22 for curbside pickup of bulky-items by calling 858.350.8544.

### ***Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society***

#### **2025-26 Executive Board**

President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard  
 Vice President.....Michele Stribling  
 Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones  
 Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf  
 Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

#### **Committees**

Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons  
 Crafts.....Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde  
 Heritage Museum Curator.....Vacant  
 Hospitality.....Karen Dorney  
 Membership.....Vacant  
 Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond  
 Parliamentarian, Programs.....Carol Childs  
 Communications.....Karen Dorney  
 Scholarship Program.....Holly Smith Jones  
 SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond